

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A director plate for use in a fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, the plate having fuel inlet and fuel exit surfaces and having at least one passage, said at least one passage having a passage wall formed between said inlet and exit surfaces for conduction of fuel through the plate between a passage inlet and a passage exit of said at least one passage, wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit surface adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

2. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said numerical surface roughness is less than about  $(R_a) 0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the numerical roughness of said passage wall adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said numerical surface roughness is less than about  $(R_a) 0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 1 wherein a juncture between said passage wall and said fuel exit surface defines an exit corner and wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit corner is less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the numerical surface roughness of said exit corner is less than about  $(R_a) 0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

7. (Original) A fuel injector for use in an internal combustion engine, said fuel injector comprising a director plate having fuel inlet and fuel exit surfaces and having at least one passage, said at least one passage having a passage wall formed between said inlet and exit surfaces for conduction of fuel through the plate between a passage inlet and a passage exit of said at least one passage, wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit surface adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Original) A fuel injector in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the numerical roughness of said passage wall adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about  $(R_a) 0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (Original) A fuel injector in accordance with Claim 7 wherein a juncture between said passage wall and said fuel exit surface defines an exit corner

and wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit corner is less than about  $(R_a)$   $0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

10. (Original) A fuel injector in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the numerical surface roughness of said exit corner is less than about  $(R_a)$   $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

11. (Original) A director plate for use in a fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, the plate having fuel inlet and fuel exit surfaces and having at least one passage, said at least one passage having a passage wall formed between said inlet and exit surfaces for conduction of fuel through the plate between a passage inlet and a passage exit of said at least one passage, wherein a numerical surface roughness of said passage wall adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about  $(R_a)$   $0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said numerical surface roughness is less than about  $(R_a)$   $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

13. (Original) A director plate for use in a fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, the plate having fuel inlet and fuel exit surfaces and having at least one passage, said at least one passage having a passage wall formed between said inlet and exit surfaces for conduction of fuel through the plate between a passage inlet and a passage exit of said at least one passage, wherein a juncture between said passage wall and said fuel exit surface defines an exit corner and

wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit corner is less than about ( $R_a$ )  $0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

14. (Original) A director plate in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said numerical surface roughness is less than about ( $R_a$ )  $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Original) An internal combustion engine comprising a fuel injector including a director plate having fuel inlet and fuel exit surfaces and having at least one passage, said at least one passage having a passage wall formed between said inlet and exit surfaces for conduction of fuel through the plate between a passage inlet and a passage exit of said at least one passage, wherein a numerical surface roughness of said exit surface adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about ( $R_a$ )  $0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (Original) An internal combustion engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the numerical roughness of said passage wall adjacent said passage exit of said at least one passage is less than about ( $R_a$ )  $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

17. (New) A method of forming a director plate for a fuel injector, said method comprising:

providing a director plate having a fuel inlet surface and a fuel exit surface;

stamping a passageway through said director plate between said fuel inlet surface and said fuel exit surface, said passageway having an fuel inlet and a fuel exit, wherein a break-edge is formed on said fuel exit surface; and  
smoothing said fuel exit surface to a surface roughness of less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

18. (New) A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said smoothing is accomplished by one of mechanical polishing, magnetorheological finishing, and laser polishing.

19. (New) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising:  
providing a passage exit corner between said passageway and said exit surface; and  
smoothing said exit corner to a surface roughness of less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .

20. (New) A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said passageway is smoothed to a surface roughness of less than about  $(R_a) 0.2\mu\text{m}$ .